

Sermon Discussion

6 December 2020

Read Mark 4:35-5:43 together.

Dig Deeper

There are four miracles in this section. Jesus authenticated His words (v. 1-34) with His works (4:35—5:43). He demonstrated power over nature, demons, illness, and death. The purpose of these miracles was to demonstrate Jesus' ability to vanquish all powers that are hostile to God.

The **1st miracle** (4:35-41) should encourage all disciples with the knowledge that Jesus can control the natural circumstances of life, including its storms, and keep them safe. This would have been an especially comforting revelation to Mark's original readers in their persecutions.

They had seen Jesus perform many healings and exorcisms, but this was a new revelation of the extent of His authority. The Greek words Mark used, *ephobethesan phobon*, describe respectful awe that people feel in the presence of supernatural power.

The **2nd miracle** (5:1-20) shows that the goal of demons is to destroy the person created in the image of God. The man's demonization is evident in his social isolation, superhuman strength, and self-destructive tendencies.

In the **3rd and 4th miracles** (5:21-43), the delay caused by the healing of the woman created a greater problem that Jesus overcame easily. This account of a double miracle further revealed Jesus' identity to His disciples. The healing of Jairus's daughter shows that Jesus is the Lord of life, and the healing of the woman with the problem of persistent bleeding shows that He is the Lord of health.

1. The season of Advent is about the expectation and anticipation of the arrival of the Messiah. How do you prepare yourself for God's arrival each day? Is there a habit that helps you anticipate and expect His work in your life?
2. Isaiah predicted that the Messiah would come from unlikely places: as a child, from Galilee. Where does most of our culture seek might and power from today? Why do think they so often do not look to Jesus as their Mighty God?
3. What are some practical benefits of the truth that as Mighty God Jesus has authority over the natural, spiritual, physical, and eternal realms of life?
4. If Jesus is known as Mighty God, what does the fact that Jesus came in weakness tell us about the way we are called to participate in God's kingdom?

Application & Prayer

- The sermon talked about how God desires to intervene in your life. Is there any area in your life that you need God to transform? Ask someone to pray with you about it.
- What is one thing God seems to be asking you to do in response to this passage? Who can you tell about this “I will” statement in the next 48 hours?